

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 2 MARCH 2003

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications Unit of the South African Radio League and is responsible for providing emergency communication in times of distress or national disasters to local and regional authorities, when requested to do so.

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IN THE BULLETIN TODAY:-

BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY ICC WORLD CUP CRICKET AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE - An interesting Website CRISISCALL UPCOMING EVENTS CYCLONE JAPHET

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN - Sunday morning at 07H00 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070MHz

National Bulletin at 17H00 local on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz

Gauteng North on Tuesdays at 20:30. The frequencies are 145,725MHz and either on 7,070MHz in the 40M band or 3,695MHz in the 80M band. There is a possibility that their bulletin times may change in due course but you will be advised.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Hamnet Western Cape Province with a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145.700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The HAMNET Bulletin is e-mailed to all those of whom I have address and also sent out on packet by Rudi, ZS6DX. A synopsis of bulletins is reproduced in later editions of Radio ZS.

ICC - WORLD CUP CRICKET

Slowly the cricket clock is ticking away. With only one game today, in Port Elizabeth, the venues for the week Monday the 3rd of March to Sunday the 9th of March are as follows.

Monday 3 March = Willowmoore Park Benoni, Goodyear Park in Bloemfontein and Kingsmead in Durban which is a Day/Night game and also a very crucial game for South Africa

Tuesday 4 March = Potchefstroom and Bulawayo

Now it starts getting tricky.

No games on Wednesday and Thursday but on Friday the 7th the super six gets underway with a game in Newlands Cape Town and Supersport Stadium in Centurion.

On Saturday the 8th there is another game in Bloemfontein but no games on Sunday the 9th of March.

Stay tuned for further venues that will be published next Sunday.

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE

Thanks to Graham McNally, ZS6GPM, a very interesting newsletter was emailed to me that included a host of items that had a bearing on not only Hamnet but also emergency communication around the world.

The Website can be found on www.arnewsline.org

The first item, on page one that caught my eye was the fear that America still has of further terrorist attacks. In particular, an appeal is made to all Amateur Radio Operators around the country, but in particular to those who belong to ARES, to prepare themselves for being called upon to provide emergency communication after such an attack.

Not only hams, but the average American is asked to take basic disaster preparedness steps like maintaining at least a 3 day stockpile of food and water. They also recommend obtaining plastic sheeting to cover and seal a house in the event of a chemical attack.

Some form of radio receiver that does not rely on electrical power should also be available.

From an Amateur Radio point of view, batteries, generators, alternative antennas and food supplies must be available at all times and that operators should have an alternative means of communicating with each other and not to rely on phone and cell phones for communication. Also some built-in security system should be in place, especially when making use of pagers, to ascertain the message is a valid one and not a hoax.

They went so far as to supply a website whereby, when monitoring frequencies and a conversation is overheard that may sound suspicious, the data can be sent to the FBI for follow-up.

The article ends with the emphasis being laid on joining the ARRL for adequate emergency communication training.

RESCUE RADIO

The value of Amateur Radio as an alternative means of communication was emphasised with the introduction of a new class of operator in their next Field Day contest. This class puts the emphasis on the preparedness of an EOC or Emergency Operator Centre.

It is no longer just how good one is at setting up a field station but also how good and how quickly can we set up an EOC and how effective is the communication from that centre.

COLUMBIA DISASTER RECOVERY

The recovery operation for parts of the space shuttle Columbia that disintegrated on re-entry after its mission, was wound up by 12 February. RACES and SKYWARN were the two most active organisations that participated in the recovery of parts from the stricken space shuttle.

SKYWARN is the network of amateurs who report strange weather conditions to weather stations all over the country but especially in the south-eastern states of America where tornadoes and twisters are a common occurrence certain times of the year

CRISISCALL

The interview with Hillary Phillips went off very well. The article was e-mailed to me prior to publication and corrected where necessary.

This article will appear in their March issue of this interactive magazine that is available on the Internet only.

The website is www.crisiscal.co.za

Some photos sent to me by Tubby, ZS5TUB will feature in this issue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Two items that are of interest this month are the Tour Natal Rally which takes place over the weekend of 7-8 March. HAMNET KZN will be providing the communications for this rally.

Also, a HAMNET open day will take place on the school grounds of the John Wesley Junior Prep School in Pinetown on Saturday the 29 of March. In attendance will be no only HAMNET members but also Bruce Mitchell who heads the Durban Disaster Management team. This is also a golden opportunity for not only non HAMNET member to see HAMNET in action but also for the youngsters who may not be aware of the benefit that Amateur Radio offers the community.

They deserve our support and thanks to HAMNET KZN for this effort.

CYCLONE JAPHET

Cyclone Japhet is moving slowly down the east coast at this time. It appears to be heading for the coast of Mozambique but we are keeping an eye on it. We believe it will eventually turn into just a tropical depression accompanied with rain.

Bulletin ends.